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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7003

BILL NUMBER: SB 374

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 3, 2012

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Graduation Rate Determination.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Kruse

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill defines "transfer" for purposes of determining graduation rates.

The bill modifies requirements for a student to graduate without passing the ISTEP tests.

The bill provides that it is neglect of duty for a teacher or other licensed employee to counsel a student to transfer to a nonaccredited nonpublic school located in a private residence if the teacher or other employee does not have reasonable knowledge that the student and the student's family intend to conduct appropriate educational activities.

The bill provides that if a high school student is transferring to a nonaccredited nonpublic school located in a private residence, the superintendent or the superintendent's designee must review the student's proposed curriculum, and, if the curriculum does not provide instruction equivalent to that given in public schools, report the student to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles as a dropout.

The bill repeals a provision concerning graduation requirements for a student graduating before July 1, 2010.

Effective Date: July 1, 2012.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The state Superintendent of Public Instruction may suspend or revoke a teaching license for willful neglect of duty. The bill makes it neglect of duty for a teacher or licensed employee to counsel a student to transfer to a nonaccredited nonpublic school located in a private residence if the teacher or other employee does not have reasonable knowledge that the student and the student's family intend to conduct appropriate educational activities. The bill could increase the number of licenses the

Department could have to review and process for suspension or termination. The impact is probably minor.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Defining "transfer" for purposes of determining graduation rates should have no fiscal impact.

The bill removes the requirement for a student who fails the graduation examination to obtain a written recommendation from a teacher of the student in each subject area in which the student has not received a passing score on the graduation examination for graduation. The student would still have to:

1. Take the graduation examination at least one time every school year in each subject area in which the student did not pass.
2. Complete remediation opportunities provided to the student.
3. Maintain a school attendance rate of at least 95%.
4. Maintain at least a "C" average in the courses required for graduation.
5. Otherwise, satisfy all state and local graduation requirements.
6. Complete:
 - a. The course and credit requirements for a general diploma.
 - b. A workforce readiness assessment.
 - c. At least one career exploration internship, cooperative education, or workforce credential recommended by the school.

These provisions should have minor fiscal impact.

The bill requires the school superintendent or the superintendent's designee to review the proposed curriculum of a high school student who is transferring to a nonaccredited nonpublic school located in a private residence. If the curriculum does not provide instruction equivalent to that given in public schools, the school is required to report the student to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles as a dropout. The impact on local schools would probably be minor.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: Schools.

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Chuck Mayfield, 317-232-4825.